with the Government for Approval;

(b) whether any clearance has been granted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Government has on 28.2.97 accorded Ist Stage clearance to Cochin Refineries Limited, for preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report, at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.50 crores, including FE component of Rs. 1.75 crores. for setting up of a 500 MW Power Generation Plant at Ambalamugal, Ernakulam District, Kerala.

Pilferage in Oil Refinery

1776. SHRI VIJAY HARISHCHANDRA PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware about pilferage of huge quantity of oil from Barauni Oil Refinery at various stages;

(b) if so, the amount of loss Government is incurring; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take immediate steps to check the pilferage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) According to I.O.C. there is no pilferage of oil from Barauni Refinery. IOC have an effective system of checks and balances coupled with close monitoring of loading and despatch of all petroleum products from the refinery premises.

Besides, a full compliment of CISF personnel are deployed in the refinery premises for security including prevention of pilferage.

Exploration of Deposits of Uranium

1777. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the States in which scientists had recently explored the deposits of Uranium;

(b) the locations where work of exploration of Uranium has since been started;

(c) the total quantity of Uranium extracted therefrom so far;

(d) whether the Government propose to explore the deposits of Uranium by using more modernised equipment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Preliminary survey for locating uranium reserves has been carried out throughout the country. The States and the locations where promising indications of uranium reserves have been noticed recently are :

1. Meghalaya – Near Domiasiat in the West Khasi Hills District.
2. Andhra Pradesh – Some areas in Nalgonda, Guntur, Cuddapah & Chittoor Districts.
3. Uttar Pradesh – Naktu-Kudar in Sonbhadra District.
4. Gujarat – Garumal in Panchmahals District.
5. Rajasthan – Putholi in Chittorgarh District
6. Karnataka – Gopi in Gulbarge District.

(c) Uranium has not yet been extracted from any of these areas.

(d) and (e) The Atomic Minerals Division (AMD) of the Department of Atomic Energy already employs modern multidisciplinary techniques like remote sensing using satellite data, study of aerial photographs, airborne gamm-ray and magnetic surveys etc. for uranium exploration. The Ninth Five Year Plan of AMD envisages modernisation through better equipment such as cesium vapour magnetometer for collection of airborne magnetic data, transient electro-magnetometer for ground surveys, global positioning system etc. for improveing efficiency.

Display of Portrait

1778. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for selecting the portraits of patriots to be displayed in the Courts throughout the country as well as in the buildings of National importance;

(b) whether it comes under the jurisdiction of Chief Justice, States or Centre, to take final decision in this regard; and

(c) if so, the procedure followed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) The